



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 85-101 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Radiologic Technology
Department of Health Professions
February 4, 2010

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

Pursuant to Chapters 83 and 507 of the 2009 Acts of Assembly, the Board of Medicine (Board) proposes to establish requirements for the licensure of radiologist assistants.

Result of Analysis

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

Estimated Economic Impact

The proposed amendments do not change any requirements or permitted activities for the professions currently governed by these regulations. All the permitted activities for the proposed new licensed profession of radiologist assistant that go beyond what is permitted for radiologic technologists are currently only allowed to be performed by radiologists. Since there are no new restrictions, requirements or fees for the professions currently governed by these regulations, and the required training for the proposed new profession should be sufficient for public safety, there are no apparent costs for the public associated with establishing the licensed profession of radiologist assistant. Since these individuals will be able to provide an additional supply of competent healthcare, there will be a public benefit. Thus the proposed amendments to these regulations create a net public benefit.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed amendments affect entities that employ radiologists and potentially radiologist assistants, such as hospitals and radiology medical practices.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed amendments do not disproportionately affect specific localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments will not likely significantly affect total employment, but will allow radiologists and their staff to use their labor hours more effectively.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed new licensed profession of radiologist assistant may be attractive for hospitals and radiology medical practices in that these professionals could perform some procedures that currently can only be done by radiologists, and at a lower cost per labor hour. The radiologists can then potentially use that saved time more productively. This would likely increase the value of the medical practice.

Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects

The proposed new licensed profession of radiologist assistant may be attractive for small businesses such as radiology medical practices in that these professionals could perform some procedures that currently can only be done by radiologists, and at a lower cost per labor hour. The radiologists can then potentially use that saved time more productively. This would likely increase the value of the medical practice.

Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact

The proposed amendments do not produce an adverse impact for small businesses.

Real Estate Development Costs

The proposed amendment does not affect real estate development costs.

Legal Mandate

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to

be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.